# **RM** plc **Preliminary Results**

#### Technology and Resources for Education

15 February 2022

**Mark Berry** Chief Executive Officer **Chief Financial Officer** 

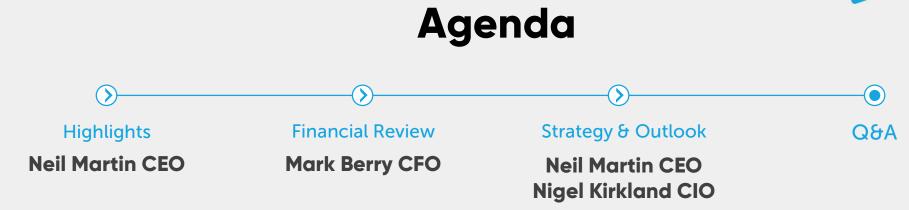
**Nigel Kirkland** Chief Information Officer





Neil Martin





## 2021 Highlights

Improved 2021 performance despite continued COVID-19 disruption

Satisfactory results versus the prior year taking into account continued disruption

**Revenue up 12%** driven by strong trading in RM Resources enabling adjusted operating profit improvement of 22%

**Balance sheet remains resilient** with net debt at £18m and an improvement in the pension funding position

Paid and proposed final dividend of 4.7 pence per share (2020: 3.0p)

**Reset the strategy** and established plans to deliver sustainable growth

Good early progress

# Financial Summary





## **FY21 Financial Overview**

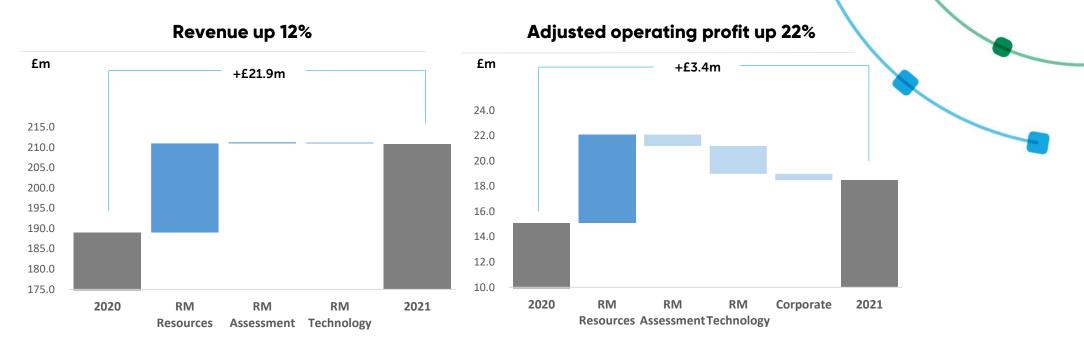
#### Resilient performance following school closures and exam cancellations



- Revenues up 12% and adjusted operating profit increased to £18.5m driven by strong trading in RM Resources which recovered quickly following the reopening of UK schools in March
- > Net debt increased to £18m driven by strong underlying cash conversion being offset by planned spend in respect of our digital and warehouse automation and IT platform investment programmes
- Final paid and proposed dividend at 4.7 pence per share (2020:3.0p).

## **FY21 Revenue and profit development**

Revenue and profit increases driven by strong recovery in Resources



#### > Revenue +12%

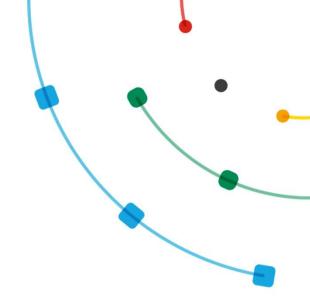
- RM Resources up 24% driven by a strong recovery in the UK following the re-opening of schools in March
- RM Assessment flat on prior year with partial recovery of global exam activity offset by insourcing of a contract by a key customer in 2020
- **RM Technology** in line with prior year as schools continued to prioritise ICT spending despite closures

#### > Adjusted operating Profit +22%

 Driven by Resources revenue growth offset by higher product and freight costs and the impact of one-time items, in part, related to COVID-19

## **FY21 Income Statement**

| £m                         | 2021  | 2020  | Variance |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| Revenue                    | 210.9 | 189.0 | +12%     |
| Adjusted Operating Profit  | 18.5  | 15.1  | +22%     |
| Adjusted Operating Margin  | 8.8%  | 8.0%  | +0.8pp   |
| Interest                   | (1.4) | (1.0) | +32%     |
| Adjusted Profit before tax | 17.1  | 14.0  | +22%     |
| Тах                        | (3.3) | (2.7) | +23%     |
| Adjusted Profit after Tax  | 13.8  | 11.4  | +21%     |
| Adjustments (after tax)    | (9.6) | (3.7) | -157%    |
| Profit after tax           | 4.2   | 7.6   | -45%     |
| Adjusted diluted EPS       | 16.4p | 13.6p | +21%     |
| Dividend per share         | 4.7p  | 3.0p  | +1.7p    |



Interest costs reflect debt facility charges and finance costs related to the defined benefit pension schemes

> Adjusted effective tax rate of 19.2 % (2020: 19.0%).

#### > Adjustments (after tax) comprise:

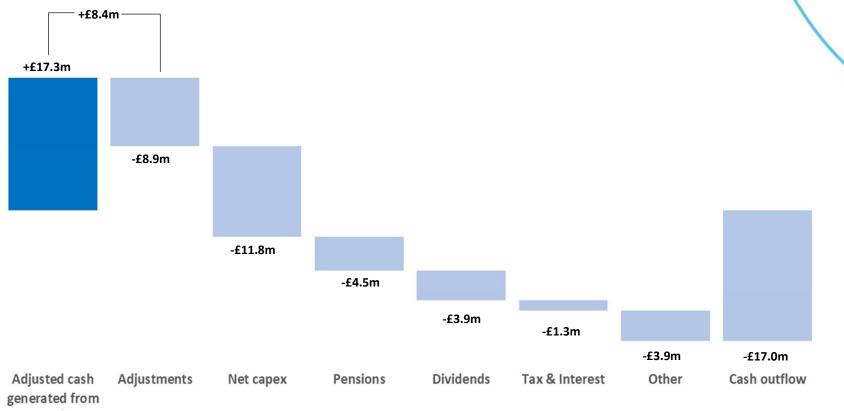
(i) £7.0m of costs incurred during FY21 in relation to the implementation of our new IT platform have been expensed following the implementation of new Software as a Service ("SaaS") accounting guidance.

(ii) £2.6m Amortisation of acquisition intangibles, dual running and one-off property costs

\*Adjusted operating profit is before the amortisation of acquisition related intangible assets, dual run costs, non-recurring one time property related items, a stock write down (2020), restructuring costs, costs associated with GMP equalisation (2020) and profit on sale of non-core assets

## Cashflow



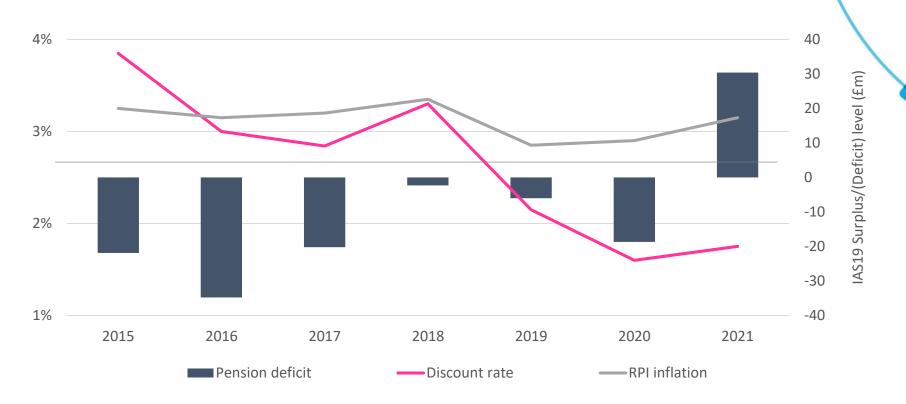


operations

- Net Debt £18.3m (November 2020: £1.3m)
- > Adjustments mainly comprise spend on new IT platform and dual running costs
- Net capex comprises capitalized spend on new IT platform and warehouse consolidation net of proceeds from property sales

## Pension

#### Surplus driven by returns on scheme assets; triennial valuation nearing conclusion



- > IAS19 pension deficit improved by £49.1m from 30 Nov 2020 to a surplus of £30.4m
- > Movement mainly driven by higher returns on scheme assets, alongside a higher discount rate and an increase in inflation
- > 31 May 2021 triennial valuation nearing conclusion

# 2021 Divisional Review

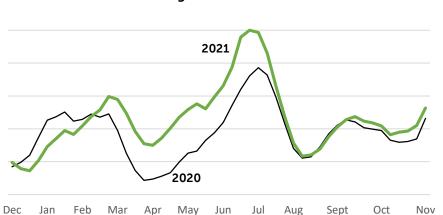




#### **RM Resources**

#### Strong recovery despite school closures and material cost inflation

- > Revenue +24% vs 2020 with similar open school days
  - UK revenue +4% vs. 2019
  - International revenue -18% vs. 2019
- Strong recovery following re-opening of UK schools
- > TTS brand grew market share supporting curriculum focus and managing COVID transmission risk
- > Operating profit +£7m
  - Driven by revenue growth partially offset by higher product and freight costs
- Fit out of new warehouse and associated office space complete







#### **RM Assessment**

#### **Resilient performance despite COVID-19 related exam cancellations**

#### > Revenue

 In line with prior year as partial recovery of global exam activity was offset by insourcing by a key customer in 2020

#### > Operating profit

- Lower as FY20 benefited from lower costs driven by widespread lockdowns & wage inflation increased FY21 delivery costs
- > Good forward visibility from long term contract renewals
- > Sales pipeline development remains constrained

| Geography       | Customers | Exam Activity<br>vs.2020 | Exam Activity<br>vs. 2019 |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| UK School Exams | 3         | +10%                     | -95%                      |
| UK Other        | 6         | +90%                     | +85%                      |
| International   | 19        | +45%                     | -30%                      |



## **RM Technology**

#### Revenues stable as schools faced continued disruption

- Revenue In line with prior year as schools maintained systems despite closures in H1
- > Operating profit lower driven by:
  - Lower gross margins due to revenue mix
  - Increased operating costs post lockdown
  - Absence of one-time benefits in the prior year
- Sales pipeline for more strategic opportunities delayed due to COVID-19 as schools focused on technical infrastructure



# Strategy & Outlook

Investment case for the future





## **Taking RM Forward**

Building on resilience to unlock growth









# Market opportunity through change

Changing education landscape is creating opportunity in existing and adjacent markets

#### Strategy reset

Building on strong market and brand foundations, improving execution and commercial focus

## Enablers to unlock growth

New technology platform, operating model and investment in talent and culture

# Strong cash generation

Well positioned for sustainable growth underpinned by a robust balance sheet and strong cash generation

#### **Changing Market Drivers**



## Use of technology in Education

Accelerating as schools progress on long digital maturity journey



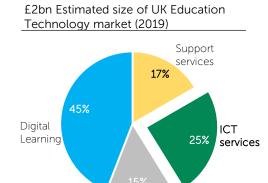
#### Digital delivery of Assessment

Growing engagement on digital solutions post COVID-19 disruption



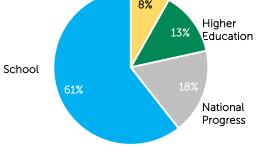
#### Aggregated School Procurement

Growth in larger school groups is key disrupter in buyer behaviour

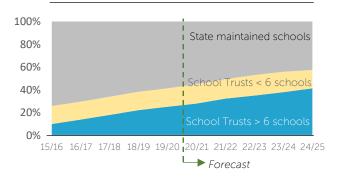


Admin software

#### UK number of outsourced assessments, 2018/19 38 million – 94% on paper Prof / vocation 8%



#### School volumes by type of school, England



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## **Strategic Objectives**

|    |  | Why is it important   | Where are we today   |   | In progress  |
|----|--|---|--|---|--|
| 8  | Reach more<br>customers                    | Defined target customers<br>Critical to optimize market share           | RM Resources<br>RM Assessment<br>RM Technology                             | • | Refreshed propositions<br>New technology platform<br>New structure and leadership    |
|    | Improve<br>share of<br>customer<br>spend   | Optimise return on investment where cost to sell is high                | RM Resources<br>RM Assessment<br>RM Technology<br>RM Group                 | • | Refreshed propositions<br>New technology platform<br>New structure and leadership    |
|    | Operational<br>excellence                  | Customer focus on trust<br>Tight budgets<br>High-touch requirements     | Operational efficiency is behind some competitors                          | • | New technology platform<br>Single automated warehouse                                |
| 12 | Attract &<br>retain talent                 | Talent has functional expertise<br>Sector knowledge<br>Customer empathy | Purpose led organisation but<br>very challenging labour market             | • | Employee engagement focus<br>New structure and leadership<br>New technology platform |
| £  | Maintain<br>strong financial<br>discipline | Need to invest whilst balancing risk and stakeholder needs              | Resilient balance sheet<br>Good cash generation<br>Prudent fiscal approach | • | Large capital programmes<br>conclude in 2022   |

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# Enablers to unlock growth

Building a stronger business



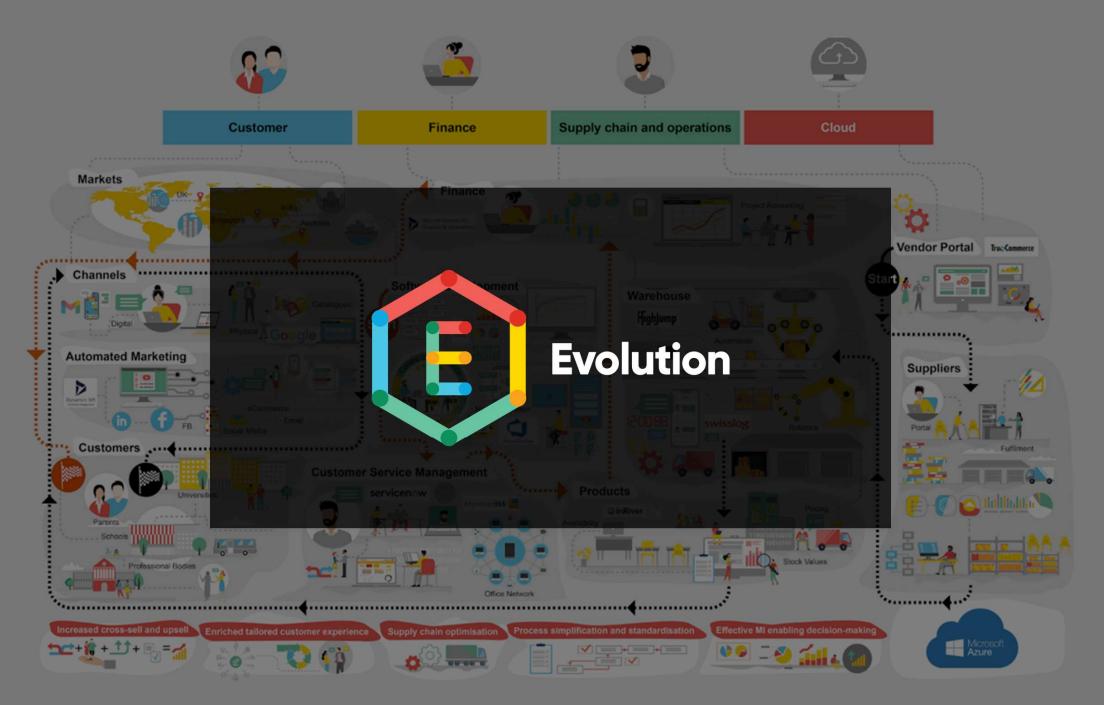
New digital and automated platforms



Portfolio & Operating Model

**Talent & culture** 





## Evolution – What is it ?

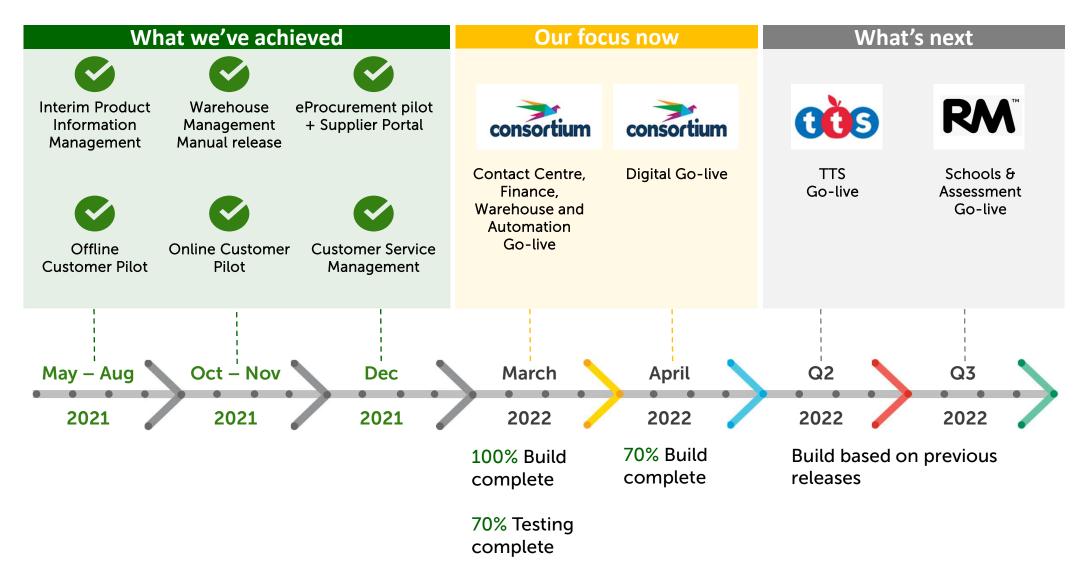
Programme of activity to transform and improve the business processes and technology

Evolution is underpinned by cloud technology that will :

- > Allow us to replace out of date and legacy core technology systems
- Re-design inefficient business processes
- > Integrate our business critical systems
- > Create a single view of the customer
- > Unlock the value of our data assets

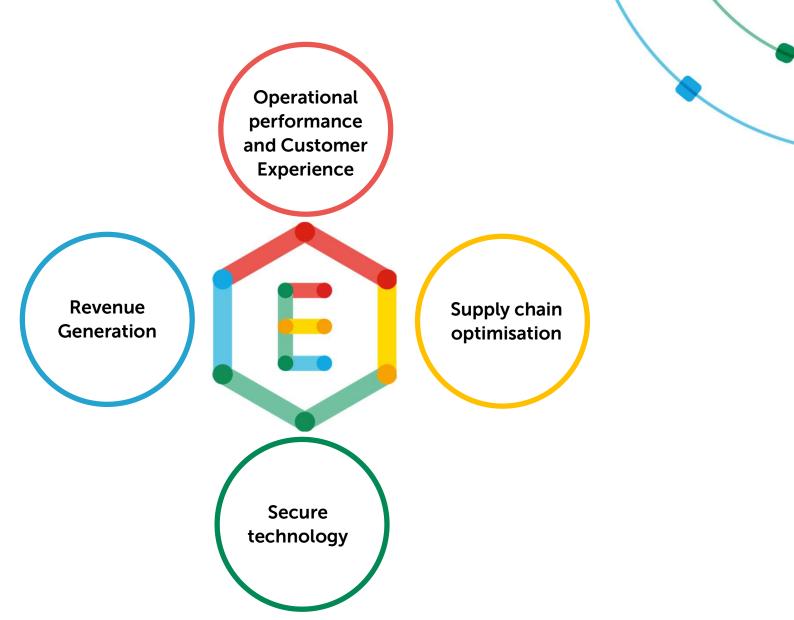
## **Evolution Timeline Summary**





## **Evolution – Business outcome**

The business outcomes can be grouped into four areas:





The need for greater customer focus has led to a new divisional structure and target operating model with a focus on leveraging revenue and operational synergies to maximise the value of the Group over the sum of its parts

#### Common purpose and vision

Strategic partnerships & Group customer leverage

| RESOURCES  | ASSESSMENT            | TECHNOLOGY                         |  |  |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Curriculum<br>Content  | Digital<br>Assessment | Technology to improve<br>Education |  |  |  |  |
| New management structure to enable 3 leadership teams to improve |                       |                                    |  |  |  |  |

New management structure to enable 3 leadership teams to improve go-to-market focus and execution

Target Operating Model development to deliver synergies and centres of excellence and strategic initiatives



Investment in key leadership is a fundamental building block Greater strategic focus, empowerment and talent development will build on a passionate culture

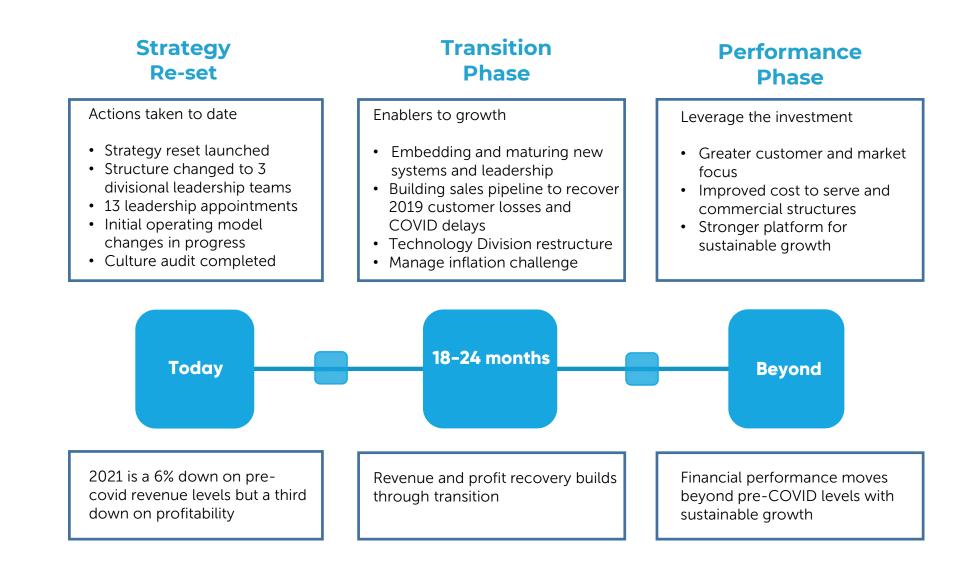
#### Common purpose and vision

Strategic partnerships & Group customer leverage

| RESOURCES                             | ASSESSMENT            | TECHNOLOGY                         |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Curriculum<br>Content                 | Digital<br>Assessment | Technology to improve<br>Education |  |  |  |  |
| 13 new senior leadership appointments |                       |                                    |  |  |  |  |

Target Operating Model development to deliver synergies and centres of excellence and strategic initiatives

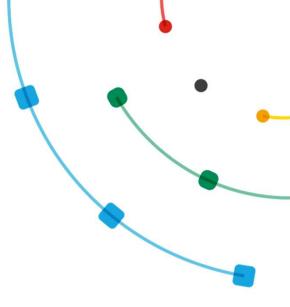
#### **Phased approach**



## Summary

> 2021 delivered a satisfactory improvement in financial performance

- > The market landscape is changing
- > Capitalising on the opportunities requires RM to adapt
  - Clearer strategic focus
  - Improved commercial execution
- > Strategy reset with good early progress
- > Transition phase will deliver the change
- Reward is sustainable growth in purpose led organisation delivering improved shareholder value









# Appendix





## **Income Statement**

|   | YEAR TO 30 NOVEMBER |             |         |          |             |         |  |
|---|---------------------|-------------|---------|----------|-------------|---------|--|
|   |                     | 2021        |         |          | 2020        |         |  |
| £M  | ADJUSTED            | ADJUSTMENTS | TOTAL   | ADJUSTED | ADJUSTMENTS | TOTAL   |  |
| Revenue   | 210.9               | -           | 210.9   | 189.0    | -           | 189.0   |  |
| Cost of sales                                   | (140.2)             | -           | (140.2) | (121.6)  | (0.4)       | (121.9) |  |
| Gross profit                                    | 70.6                | -           | 70.6    | 67.4     | (0.4)       | 67.1    |  |
| Gross profit %                                  | 33.5%               | -           | 33.5%   | 35.7%    | -           | 35.5%   |  |
| Operating expenses                              | (52.2)              | -           | (52.2)  | (52.4)   | -           | (52.4)  |  |
| Amortisation of acquisition related intangibles |                     | (2.0)       | (2.0)   |          | (2.0)       | (2.0)   |  |
| Restructuring provision                         |                     | -           | -       |          | (1.0)       | (1.0)   |  |
| Dual running property & licence costs           |                     | (2.0)       | (2.0)   |          | 0.6         | 0.6     |  |
| IT platform costs                               |                     | (8.3)       | (8.3)   |          | (1.7)       | (1.7)   |  |
| Pension GMP                                     |                     | -           | -       |          | (0.2)       | (0.2)   |  |
| Gain on sale of non-core asset                  |                     | -           | -       |          | 0.7         | 0.7     |  |
| Gain on sale of property                        |                     | 1.4         | 1.4     |          | 0.7         | 0.7     |  |
| Property related costs                          |                     | (0.5)       | (0.5)   |          | -           | -       |  |
|   | (52.2)              | (11.5)      | (63.6)  | (52.4)   | (4.1)       | (56.5)  |  |
| Operating profit                                | 18.5                | (11.5)      | 7.0     | 15.1     | (4.5)       | 10.6    |  |
| Operating profit %                              | 8.8%                | -           | 3.3%    | 8.0%     | -           | 5.6%    |  |
| Net investment income and finance costs         | (1.4)               | -           | (1.4)   | (1.0)    | -           | (1.0)   |  |
| Profit before tax                               | 17.1                | (11.5)      | 5.6     | 14.0     | (4.5)       | 9.5     |  |
| Тах   | (3.3)               | 1.9         | (1.4)   | (2.7)    | 0.8         | (1.9)   |  |
| Profit after tax                                | 13.8                | (9.6)       | 4.2     | 11.4     | (3.7)       | 7.6     |  |
| Diluted earnings per ordinary share             | 16.4p               |             | 5.0p    | 13.6p    |             | 9.1p    |  |
| Dividend per share                              |                     |             | 4.7p    |          |             | 3.0p    |  |



## Cashflow



#### YEAR TO 30 NOVEMBER

|  |          | 2021        |        |          | 2020        |        |
|--|----------|-------------|--------|----------|-------------|--------|
| OPERATING CASH FLOWS - £M                                | ADJUSTED | ADJUSTMENTS | TOTAL  | ADJUSTED | ADJUSTMENTS | TOTAL  |
| Profit from operations                                   | 18.5     | (11.5)      | 7.0    | 15.1     | (4.5)       | 10.6   |
| Amortisation & impairment of intangibles                 | -        | 2.4         | 2.4    | 1.0      | 2.0         | 3.0    |
| Depreciation & impairment of PPE                         | 4.3      | -           | 4.3    | 3.7      | -           | 3.7    |
| Gain on disposal of assets                               | -        | (1.4)       | (1.4)  | (0.3)    | (1.4)       | (1.7)  |
| Share-based payments                                     | (0.1)    | -           | (0.1)  | 0.7      | -           | 0.7    |
| (Decrease)/increase in provisions                        | (0.5)    | 0.1         | (0.4)  | 1.4      | -           | 1.4    |
| Other adjustments  | 0.1      | -           | 0.1    | (0.6)    | -           | (0.6)  |
| Operating cash flows before movements in working capital | 22.3     | (10.4)      | 11.9   | 21.3     | (3.9)       | 17.4   |
| Increase in inventories                                  | (0.5)    | -           | (0.5)  | 3.2      | 0.4         | 3.6    |
| Increase in receivables                                  | (1.6)    | (0.7)       | (2.2)  | 2.4      | -           | 2.4    |
| Increase in contract fulfilment assets                   | (1.4)    | -           | (1.4)  | (1.1)    | -           | (1.1)  |
| Decrease in payables                                     | (1.1)    | 2.2         | 1.1    | 6.0      | -           | 6.0    |
| Utilisation of provisions                                | (0.5)    | -           | (0.5)  | (2.3)    | -           | (2.3)  |
| Cash generated by operations                             | 17.3     | (8.9)       | 8.4    | 29.4     | (3.5)       | 25.9   |
| NON-OPERATING CASH FLOWS – £M                            |          |             |        |          |             |        |
| Defined benefit pension contribution                     | (4.5)    | -           | (4.5)  | (4.1)    | -           | (4.1)  |
| Tax paid   | (0.1)    | -           | (0.1)  | (2.6)    | -           | (2.6)  |
| Net capital expenditure less proceeds on disposal        | (15.0)   | 3.2         | (11.8) | (6.6)    | 4.5         | (2.1)  |
| Dividends paid   | (3.9)    | -           | (3.9)  | -        | -           | -      |
| Drawdown/(repayment) of borrowings                       | 13.8     | -           | 13.8   | (12.7)   | -           | (12.7) |
| Other  | (3.9)    | -           | (3.9)  | (2.5)    |             | (2.5)  |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents     | 3.8      | (5.7)       | (1.9)  | 0.9      | 1.0         | 1.9    |

## **Balance Sheet**

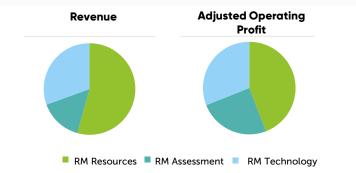
| £M   | 30 NOVEMBER 2021 | <b>30 NOVEMBER 2020</b> |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| Goodwill                                       | 49.2             | 49.3                    |
| Intangible assets                              | 23.4             | 19.0                    |
| Property, plant & equipment                    | 16.2             | 8.4                     |
| Defined benefit pension surplus                | 35.0             | 0.7                     |
| Other receivables                              | 0.1              | 0.1                     |
| Right of use Asset                             | 18.0             | 19.4                    |
| Contract fulfilment assets                     | 4.2              | 3.4                     |
| Deferred tax assets                            | 0.2              | 5.3                     |
| Total non-current assets                       | 146.3            | 105.6                   |
| Inventories                                    | 19.1             | 18.6                    |
| Trade & other receivables                      | 33.9             | 31.5                    |
| Contract fulfilment assets                     | 1.4              | 0.7                     |
| Held for sale asset                            | 3.0              | 4.8                     |
| Tax assets                                     | 3.7              | 2.6                     |
| Cash & short-term deposits                     | 3.6              | 5.9                     |
| Total current assets                           | 64.5             | 64.2                    |
| Total assets                                   | 210.8            | 169.8                   |
| Current liabilities, including tax liabilities | (65.5)           | (64.6)                  |
| Borrowings                                     | (19.7)           | (4.8)                   |
| Retirement benefit obligation                  | (4.7)            | (19.3)                  |
| Other non-current liabilities                  | (33.4)           | (28.3)                  |
| Total liabilities                              | (123.3)          | (117.0)                 |
| Net assets / total equity                      | 87.5             | 52.8                    |

## **Divisional Summary incl FY19**

| Revenue £M    |       |       |          |       |          |  |  |
|---------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|----------|--|--|
|               | 2021  | 2020  | Variance | 2019  | Variance |  |  |
| RM Resources  | 114.4 | 92.4  | +22.0    | 114.5 | -0.1     |  |  |
| RM Assessment | 31.9  | 31.6  | +0.3     | 37.7  | -5.8     |  |  |
| RM Technology | 64.6  | 65.0  | -0.4     | 71.6  | -7.0     |  |  |
| Group         | 210.9 | 189.0 | +21.9    | 223.8 | -12.9    |  |  |

| Adjusted Operating Margin   |       |       |        |       |        |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--|--|
| 2021 2020 Variance 2019 Var |       |       |        |       |        |  |  |
| RM Resources                | 8.8%  | 3.3%  | +5.5pp | 12.0% | -3.2pp |  |  |
| RM Assessment               | 17.9% | 20.9% | -3.0pp | 23.2% | -5.3pp |  |  |
| RM Technology               | 11.0% | 14.3% | -3.3pp | 14.5% | -3.5pp |  |  |
| Group                       | 8.8%  | 8.0%  | +0.8pp | 12.5% | -3.7pp |  |  |

| Adjusted Operating Profit £M |      |      |          |      |          |  |
|------------------------------|------|------|----------|------|----------|--|
|                              | 2021 | 2020 | Variance | 2019 | Variance |  |
| RM Resources                 | 10.1 | 3.1  | +7.0     | 13.7 | -3.6     |  |
| RM Assessment                | 5.7  | 6.6  | -0.9     | 8.7  | -3.0     |  |
| RM Technology                | 7.1  | 9.3  | -2.2     | 10.4 | -3.3     |  |
| Corporate                    | -4.4 | -3.9 | -0.5     | -4.9 | +0.5     |  |
| Group                        | 18.5 | 15.1 | +3.4     | 28.0 | -9.5     |  |



\*Adjusted operating profit is before the amortisation of acquisition related intangible assets, dual run costs, non-recurring one time property related items, a stock write down (2020), restructuring costs, cots associated with GMP equalisation (2020) and profit on sale of non-core assets

## Program spend/impact of IAS 38 change

| Spend £M       |      |      |      |         |  |  |
|----------------|------|------|------|---------|--|--|
|                | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | To date |  |  |
| Сарех          | 0.2  | 0.8  | 6.9  | 7.9     |  |  |
| Operating cost | 2.2  | 1.7  | 8.3  | 12.2    |  |  |
| Total          | 2.4  | 2.5  | 15.2 | 20.1    |  |  |

- > £12.2m of capital expenditure re-classified as operating costs following IAS 38 accounting update
- > Capex comprises website, design and customization costs
- > Operating cost comprises configuration of third party software, testing, data migration and program management

#### **RM Resources**

#### Innovative curriculum resources, inspiring content and outstanding service

| WHAT WE DO WHAT WAT WE DO WHAT WAT WE DO WHAT WE DO WHAT WE DO WHAT WAT WAT W |   |                          |  |            |   |        |  |  |                    |   |       |   |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|------------|---|--------|--|--|--------------------|---|-------|---|
| MARKET<br>CHARACTERISTICS  | UK Resources                                    |                          |  |            | International Resources                     |        |  |  | UK Digital Content |   |       | ] |
|  | Market  | Growth                   | Share  | Ma         | rket  | Growth | Share  |  | Market             | Growth                                  | Share |   |
|  | c.£1bn  | 0-3%                     | c.9%   | >£         | 1bn   | 2-5%   | <2%  |  | c.£81m             | 5-10%                                   | 0%    |   |
| OPPORTUNITY  | Primary Schoo                                   | Primary Schools and both |  | both brand | g customers buy<br>1 brands<br>rders online |        | Further develop t<br>International chan            |  |                    |   |       |   |
| APPROACH   | Opportunities to leverage strong customer reach |                          | New e-commerce and<br>CRM platform will improve<br>digital buying experience |            |   | ove    | Follow post COVID-19<br>global funding initiatives |  |                    | New IT platform and automated warehouse |       |   |

## **RM Assessment**

Enhancing the role digital assessment solutions play throughout lifelong learning journey

| WHAT WE DO      |  | nsform assessments to un | celerate their adoption of digital and<br>nlock teaching and learning benefits.<br>vide a technology platform      |  |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|                 | Global Asses   | sment Services           | Addressable market primarily digital development of  |  |  |  |
| MARKET          | Market Gro   | owth Share               | paper-based processes.<br>RM supports 2.5m online tests and 21m online marked                                      |  |  |  |
| CHARACTERISTICS | >f1pu >  | ·5% <5%                  | tests across 180 countries   |  |  |  |
| OPPORTUNITY     | Global review of assessmen<br>delivery following the disruptic<br>COVID-19 | Digital abov             | essment solutions have RM support the leading global<br>ng role in the learning assessment brands today<br>process |  |  |  |
| APPROACH        | Increase sales capacity to ta<br>existing and adjacent mar<br>opportunity  |                          | er of digital assessment working with the leading global assessment brands   |  |  |  |

## **RM Technology**

Helping educators harness technology to improve the learning environment

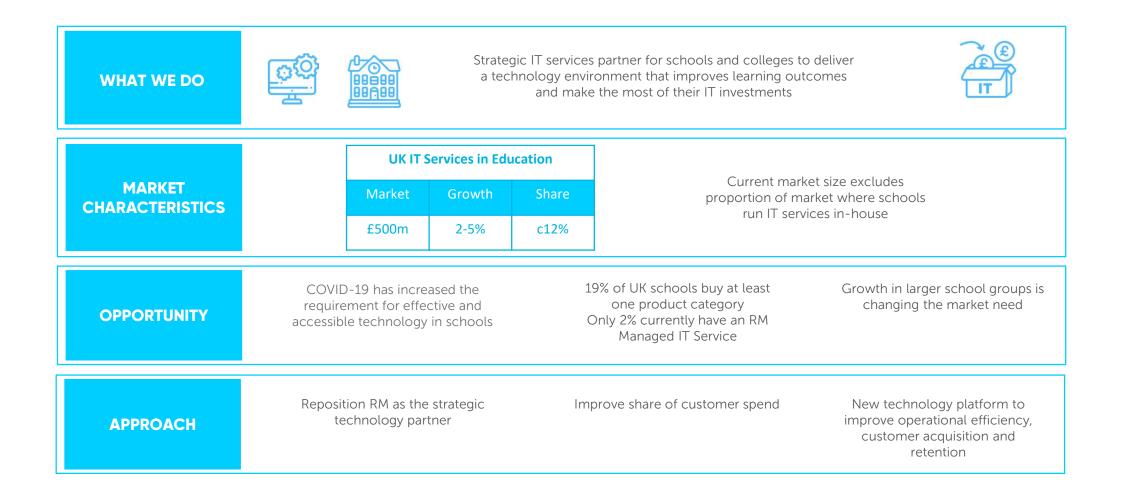
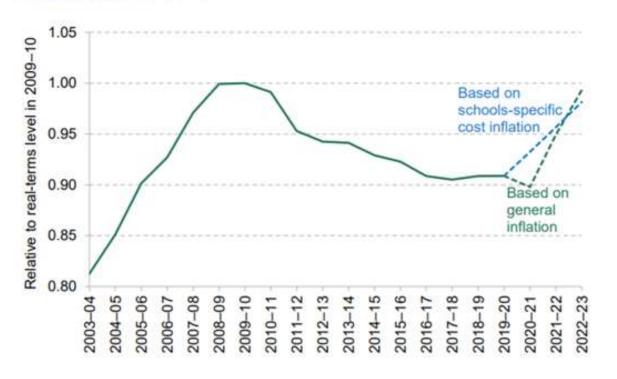
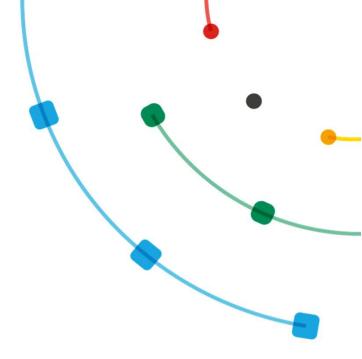




Figure 1.2. Total school spending per pupil (actual up to 2019–20, projected to 2022–23), 2009–10 = 1





- Spend per pupil fell by 9% in real terms between 2010 - 2019
- Government funding commitments are planned to almost recover to 2010 levels by 2023

Source: HM Treasury